

Freedom WatchTM



THIS MONTH

- Elections Send Clear Message
- Community Conversation on Race Wraps Up
- Meet Greg Borom

INSIDE CP

Join Citizens Project at the Community Conversation on Race culminating event: Tuesday, May 4, 6-9 p.m. at the Antlers Adams Mark hotel.

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CFV 1999 Agenda Revealed

An inside look at Colorado for Family Values strategy

by Megan Day

Concerned about the militant homosexual lobby's plan to "overhaul straight America"? Alarmed at "forced immoral sexual indoctrination in schools"? Are you out to "prevent the wholesale appointment of homosexuals-lesbians to boards and commissions"? Then sign up to join Colorado for Family Values' 1999 plan of attack on Colorado Springs.

These concerns and others were outlined in the Colorado for Family Values (CFV) 1999 strategic plan, which Citizens Project recently obtained. In early April, the *Denver Post* also obtained a copy and verified its authenticity with CFV. The CFV plan describes their strategy to, among other goals, "put the right people in place" on City Council, school boards, and the legislature, and "replace" officials who disagree with the CFV agenda. The 5-page plan also describes the organization's legislative agenda and media strategy.

Since its inception, CFV has sought to resist and oppose the "forced affirmation and approval of immoral sexual behavior." They believe that the "militant homosexual lobby" threatens their freedom of religion, conscience, speech, and association (e.g. their freedom to not associate with "those with flagrantly immoral behavior"). This belief translates into their primary activity: seeking government endorsement of discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Political power is the goal

Consistent with CFV's past ideology, the 1999 plan describes the organization's strategy to "oppose and resist all measures to make any group a protected minority based on sexual preference." The new twist, however, is their plan to focus on "politics prior to issues." The plan describes at length how debating the "issue," namely homosexuality, needs to take a back seat to political maneuvering to put in office "officials with our ethical or moral

standpoint." Instead of education and debate, CFV's plan is "actual governing - exercising authority, making decisions, and taking action."

This new tactic may have been the impetus behind CFV founder Will Perkins' run for mayor. CFV's goal, as stated in the 1999 plan, was to "Find and support one or two candidates (Mayor and City Council) who can lead the others that we know are on our side but need leadership to get there." CFV felt that such leadership would establish enough votes on council to "put the [Amendment 2-like] Charter Amendment on the ballot for us" as well as "control all the appointments and prevent the wholesale appointment of homosexuals-lesbians to boards and commissions."

In February, according to the *Denver Post*, CFV's former Executive Director Paul Jensen and Colorado Christian Coalition Chair, Chuck Gosnell met with three incumbent councilman and mayoral candidate Sallie Clark, in search of candidates they could get "excited about." However, former councilman Dawson Hubert remained the only candidate who would support their agenda and he was not a mayoral candidate. Perkins' last-minute candidacy was CFV's only chance for a mayoral candidate they could support.

Legislative plan

CFV's 1999 plan expands beyond municipal elections with an ambitious legislative agenda. Their goals include:

- Reviving the Charter Amendment effort - an Amendment 2-like City Charter amendment banning any civil rights protections for gays and lesbians - possibly through a special election this fall.
- "Election of our kind of candidates to local, state, and federal levels."
- Passing a "State Constitutional Amendment" to prevent the recognition of same-sex marriages "including the not recognizing of any kind of 'parallel rights and responsibilities' to persons in homosexual or lesbian relationships."
- Passing "Local Charter Amend-

CFVReport
Back in the crosshairs

Backroom politics in the Springs

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ments" (note that this is plural). They pledge to "use this strategy in other cities: e.g., Fort Collins and?"

- "The Defeat of any kind of 'hate-crimes laws' legislation."
- Pass a "Resolution in the schools [apparently through the legislature] to teach all Colorado students that marriage is defined as being between a married couple that is defined as a man and a woman ... and before marriage the best lifestyle is one of abstinence."
- "Re-introduce sodomy laws"

In order to accomplish these goals, CFV proposes creating a Political Action Committee to endorse and fund candidates. The media plan also includes countering the charge of "homophobia" by calling themselves "homoseptic: free from evil influence of homosexual behavior."

CFV's plan confirms that the organization is focused exclusively on preventing civil rights for gay and lesbian people. However, in recent years, CFV has failed to gather sufficient community support to write their agenda into law. With the resignation of their Executive Director, Paul Jensen, in April, and with Will Perkins no longer on the Board of Directors, CFV lacks the leadership and the community support to implement their aggressive political plan. **CP**

Election Results Send Clear Message

A Word from Board Chair, Richard Conway



On Tuesday, April 6, incumbent Councilman Dawson Hubert and first-time mayoral candidate Will Perkins lost their attempts to govern the residents of Colorado Springs. Their defeats in the recent city elections once again point to the religious right's diminished effectiveness and support throughout the Pikes Peak Region.

Dawson Hubert finished a distant fifth in a race for four at-large city council seats. Why? In part because he sided with Betty Beedy and cast the only vote on Council against renaming the Highway 24 bypass after Martin Luther King, Jr. In addition, twice in the last year, Hubert proposed changing the city's Zero Tolerance for Discrimination resolution which denounces "discrimination of a racial, ethnic, sexual or religious nature." Hubert's proposal was rejected both times, because discrimination is not a part of the vision that local residents have for their community. Obviously, neither is Hubert.

With 25,450 votes, Hubert lost to three new moderate-to-progressive candidates, Joanne Colt (38,995 votes), Ted Eastburn (44,501), and Richard Skorman (36,831), and incumbent Lionel Rivera (40,814). Together, these four represent the changing psyche of our community and will help create a healthy, productive environment for the residents and businesses of Colorado Springs.

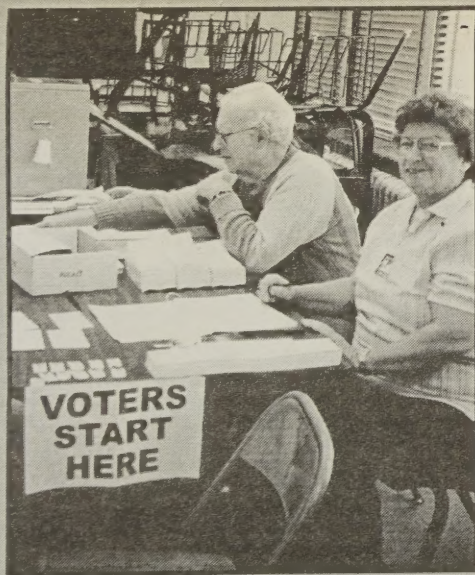
Colorado for Family Values Founder Will Perkins lost his bid for mayor to incumbent Mary Lou Makepeace by nearly 10,000 votes (Makepeace: 29,670; Perkins: 20,531; Sallie Clark: 16,947).

Perkins was the voice of Colorado's infamous anti-gay Amendment 2, a highly divisive piece of legislation which was ultimately struck down by the US Supreme Court. In an attempt to hide his pro-discrimination agenda and broaden his platform,

Perkins endorsed the sale of Memorial Hospital. The sale, he said, would help provide a trust fund for our children's future. There may be more to the push to sell Memorial Hospital than meets the eye, however. Questions from the local Christian Coalition Candidate Questionnaire indicate that the real motivation for some who advocate selling the hospital may be eliminating a facility that performs abortions (through only when women are medically at-risk).

Perkins is both anti-gay and anti-choice. Colorado Springs voters recognized this and turned out in near-record numbers to defeat Perkins and help our community shed its undeserved reputation as an extreme and intolerant community.

Following last November's national elections, Gary Bauer, head of the Family Research Council, a Focus on the Family spin-off, and Christian Coalition head, Randy Tate claimed many right-wing candidates lost because they were not clear enough on the "pro-family" agenda and therefore failed to excite the conservative Christian voters, who stayed home. However, local candidates Hubert and Perkins are well known for their right-wing views. Their defeats at the polls were not due to their constituents staying home, but to the fact that the majority of Colorado Springs' residents want to live in a community that upholds the traditional American values of diversity, pluralism, and separation of church and state. CP



Community on Race Wra

By Denise Cohen, CCR Executive Director
and Helen Upton, CCR Steering Committee
Co-Chair, Springs CAN Executive Director

When asked "what surprised you most about your Community Conversation on Race experience?" participants had widely divergent responses:

"That even liberal-minded whites are not aware of

the close-up and personal injustices happening to minorities in this community."

"We agreed more than we disagreed."

"How much I enjoyed the experience and how much I learned."

"The honesty of people in our group."

"The willingness of Colorado Springs people to participate."

"How messed up things actually are in Colorado Springs with regard to race."



The range of responses from the participants seems a fitting denouement to the recent community-wide undertaking, Community Conversation on Race (CCR). Critical to the success of this initiative, which

Suggested solution ideas that came out of discussion groups

Excerpted from the CCR Interim Report

INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS/ PERCEPTIONS

- More dialogue.
- Confront offensive/ethnic jokes.
- Establish a cohesive city, county, and state strategy regarding race relations.

INSTITUTIONAL RACISM

- More minorities needed on boards and upper management.
- Recognize minorities as individuals (e.g. when one person fails, the whole race does not fail.)

EDUCATION

- More inclusive curricula and opportunities to study different cultures.
- Hire more minority teachers and administrators.

YOUTH

- Neighborhoods/communities need to be involved in mentoring/focusing on youth.
- CCR groups for youth.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

(There was significant disagreement; however, most agreed the need for "fairness" in hiring practices still exists.)

- Develop directory of businesses and organizations with a record of support for minorities and women.
- Approach City Council regarding an affirmative action plan.
- Diversity on boards and management will influence policy.

ECONOMICS

- Reinstate Human Relations Commission as a channel for addressing discriminatory acts.
- Review City Charter regarding equal opportunity, employment, services, and housing to fairly accommodate all.

Conversation Ups Up

to help improve communication, understanding, and trust across racial and political lines, was secure participation of individuals from all segments of the community as possible. Then, the goal was to facilitate safe and meaningful discussion on issues of race and ethnicity within the context of a community that would become small, diverse and safe.

From the outset, the Steering Committee sought broad-based community participation. By the September kickoff for the first round of discussion groups, 15 community organizations, such as the Hispanic Luncheon Club, Downstream Partnership, Fort Carson, Chamber of Commerce, Junior League, Coalition of Concerned Citizens, and New Life Church had agreed to participate in CCR.

Coming from *The Gazette*, Rita and the Divine Foundation, El Pomar Foundation, Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado, Joe Woodford, All Souls United Church, Colorado Springs Utili-U-Colorado Springs, Lyon Media Services, Owens Information Services, Peak Community College, and the Circles Resource Center helped

make the project possible.

The spring discussion groups are just completing their fifth sessions – all participants committed to meeting with their assigned groups for a minimum of five times. Here are some early thoughts regarding strengths and weaknesses of the program:

- A total of 700 people participated in the fall and spring rounds combined.

- Non-white participation was 45% – a much higher minority representation than the actual demographics of El Paso County. Despite this fact, the groups of 10 to 12 individuals often lacked participants of specific minorities, such as Native Americans or Asians.

- With a topic as politically “charged” as race, facilitators who remained neutral seemed to create the “safest” discussion groups, which rendered perhaps the richest and most forthright dialogue.

- One early measurement of success seems to be the significant number of groups that have continued to meet beyond the required five sessions.

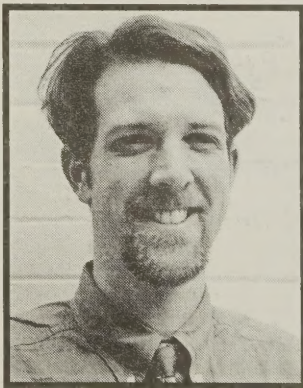
On May 4th, beginning at 6:00 p.m., at the Antlers Adam's Mark Hotel, CCR participants from both the fall and spring rounds will gather to celebrate their shared experience and hear actual and potential outcomes. Based upon summary reports received from the discussion groups, the Steering Committee discerned eight areas of concern throughout the groups: 1) Interpersonal Relations, language, perceptions; 2) Institutional Racism; 3) Education; 4) Youth; 5) Affirmative Action; 6) Criminal Justice; 7) Media; and 8) Economics.

In addition to CCR participants, representatives of city and county government, school districts, and nonprofit organizations also will attend to share information about how their respective organizations are involved, either directly or indirectly, in addressing one or more of the issue areas. Also, attendees who desire to explore the potential of organizing their own initiatives or task forces to address race-related issues and concerns will have the opportunity to do so. The general public is invited to attend this fun and important community event. For more information, contact Denise Cohen, CCR Executive Director, at 634-1525. ☐

Greg Borom New Assistant Director of CP

Greg Borom has joined Citizens Project as the new Assistant Director. As a lifelong employee of nonprofit organizations, Greg will be an experienced addition to the Citizens Project staff. “I am very impressed by the dedication of Citizens Project volunteers and board members. Clearly, the organization's commitment to creating a more tolerant Colorado Springs shines through,” said Greg.

Greg grew up in Georgia and South Carolina. He earned his BA in International Studies from Emory University in Atlanta, GA and then worked for the United Methodist Church as a Mission Intern. This three-year commitment focused on social justice issues abroad and in the US. Greg spent his overseas assignment working at the Palestinian Center for the Study of Nonviolence in Jerusalem. As part of the program he worked with both Christian and Muslim Palestinians and Israeli Jews



around issues of peace, coexistence, and tolerance.

When Greg returned to the US, he spent the rest of his three-year commitment at Moore Community House in Biloxi, Mississippi where he worked as a political organizer for Congregations for Children and an after-school program teacher in a

low-income neighborhood. After his Mission Intern Program, Greg was offered a full-time position at Moore Community House organizing citizens in low-income neighborhoods to address local accountability, safe neighborhoods, economic development, and affordable housing. In addition to his non-profit work, Greg is a musician looking forward to performing around Colorado Springs.

Greg moved to Colorado Springs with his partner in July 1998. He came to Colorado because of the mountains, and to be closer to his mother's family who have lived in Colorado for generations. Greg reflected that, “As our world grows smaller, our challenge is not merely to tolerate those of different ethnic groups, racial backgrounds, or religious beliefs, but rather to build a spirit of community amidst such diversity. I look forward to creating community as Citizens Project staff.” ☐

Newsbriefs

Privatizing education in Arizona

The Arizona Supreme Court ruled 3-2 to uphold a law allowing people to take a tax credit for donations to organizations that subsidize private school tuition. The law allows public funds to indirectly support private schools. “This decision continues the gradual destruction of the wall of separation between church and state that has been under way in the courts,” says Barry Lynn, Executive Director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. Arizona's public schools could lose as much as \$60 million in funding due to the credit. Lynn described the Arizona law as another method of privatizing education in America.

Reconstructionist promotes stoning disobedient teens to death

“[T]he execution of the rebel [teen] in view is just, merciful and preventive,” writes Rev. William Einwechter in the January *Chalcedon Report*. Einwechter, Vice President of the Association of Free Reformed Churches, went on to explain the teen's “quick death prevents the destruction of the family, society and others.”

The *Chalcedon Report* promotes Reconstructionism. According to this belief system, a strict theocracy should be established in the United States in which the laws of the Old Testament serve as the law of the land.

In supporting his pro-stoning stance, Einwechter cites a section of the Old Testament which directs a father to take a stubborn and rebellious son before the elders of the city to be stoned to death if the youngster will not change his ways. Einwechter says stoning is limited to more mature children – “middle teens or older” – and is to be used only after other methods of discipline have failed.

Lott, Barr tied to racist group

According to the *Washington Post*, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott and Rep. Bob Barr (R-Ga.) have ties to the Council of Conservative Citizens (CCC), a Southern organization that promotes white supremacy and racial separation. The *Post* reported that Barr delivered the keynote address at a CCC meeting in June 1998 and Lott has given many speeches to the CCC over the years and printed a column in 10 of the CCC's newsletters. In 1992, Lott was quoted as saying to CCC members that they “stand for the right principles and the right philosophy.” CCC's newsletters and direct mail include articles that attribute “high crime and low intelligence” to African Americans and Latinos.

Continued on page 4

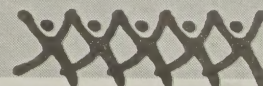
Quotes of Note

“Vouchers, opportunity scholarships, school choice, or whatever name the right wing is using to conceal this monster. We cannot let these people take us back to separate and unequal. My forebears have fought too hard for that.”

– NAACP National Education Director, Rhonda Boozer on Milwaukee's voucher system.

“While [the voucher program] is helping out about 6,000 kids, it's taking away from the 100,000 kids in public schools who still need textbooks.”

– Milwaukee public school student Carl Quindel



Citizens Project

More Newsbriefs

Civil Rights Bill, Hate Crimes Bill killed on House floor

Despite unprecedented victories in key committees, House Bill 1245 ("Civil Rights Based on Sexual Orientation") and House Bill 1074, the Hate Crime Bill, were both defeated on the House floor in April.

HB 1245 would have added sexual orientation to the list of characteristics for which a person may not be discriminated against under state law. Five municipalities in Colorado offer protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Without HB 1245 it is still legal outside of these five municipalities to fire, evict, or refuse service to someone because they are gay.

The Hate Crime Bill would have added sexual orientation, age, and disability to the existing Ethnic Intimidation law in Colorado and changed the name of the law to Hate Crimes. Ms. Jackson-Lee of Texas introduced the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1999 to Congress in January. Her bill would enhance Federal enforcement of hate crimes laws. The Bill defines hate crimes as the incidence of violence motivated by the actual or perceived race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender, or disability of the victim.

Hate crimes continue

The list of recent hate crime victims extends well beyond the highly publicized murders of Omar Dia in Denver, James Byrd in Texas, and Matthew Shepard in Wyoming. In February of this year, Billy Jack Gaither was killed in Alabama. After beating him with an ax handle, his killers threw his body onto flaming tires doused with gasoline. One man accused in the killing was known to shave his head, dress like a skinhead, display the confederate flag, and wear KKK T-shirts. The two suspects in the case confessed to the sheriff's deputies that they plotted for two weeks to kill Gaither because he made unwanted sexual advances at one of them.

On February 24, 1999, a 20-year old African American college student, Jody-Gaye Bailey, was killed in Oakland Park, Florida, apparently for no other reason than the color of her skin. She was in the passenger seat of a car being driven by her white boyfriend when a motorist pulled up next to them and fired 7 shots into the car. Suspect Robert Boltuch, a self-proclaimed skinhead, reportedly boasted that he wanted to go out and "kill a n****r" just minutes before the shooting.

Fourteen students (including the shooters) and one teacher are now dead in Littleton, Colorado. The two gunmen, also students, are said to have worn swastikas on their clothing and idolized Hitler. They apparently planned the shootings to coincide with Hitler's birthday.

Affirmative action bill killed in Colorado State Assembly

Affirmative action took a hit with the defeat of House Bill 1261 on March 17th in the Senate State Affairs Committee. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Penfield Tate, would have restored voluntary state personnel guidelines that help recruit, retain, and promote qualified women and racial minorities in state government. The bill was backed by the Colorado Women's Bar Association, Hispanic League of CO, League of Women Voters, and others.

Pueblo West subsidizing church

The Pueblo West Board of Directors recently approved a plan to sell land to a church at \$188,000 below market price. After researching the issue, Citizens Project sent a letter to the Pueblo West Board of Directors urging them not to go through with the sale. Selling the land to the church for \$11,600 when the land is valued at over \$200,000 amounts to a very large, taxpayer-supported gift from a public entity to a church — a clear violation of the establishment clause of the Constitution. Should the Board go through with the sale at the current price, they face a lawsuit by Americans United for Separation of Church and State. **CP**

Announcements

Community Shares offers alternative in payroll deduction

For more than 10 years, Community Shares has been raising funds for nonprofits in the Denver metro area through payroll deduction. Now, with Community Shares' expansion, Colorado Springs has the opportunity to diversify charitable choices in the workplace.

Community Shares is a federation that raises funds for its 86 nonprofit members through payroll deduction.

Citizens Project was the first member agency in Colorado Springs. We are now joined by the Clean Air Campaign, Community Council for Adolescent Development, Trails and Opens Space Coalition, Teen Resources, Planned Parenthood, Hospice of the Comforter, and the Senior Resource Council.

Ask your employer to expand employee charitable choice by including Community Shares in your workplace giving campaign. Call Citizens Project for more information at 520-9899.

Unity in the Community

P.M. Wynn's Unity in the Community event is coming up on May 22 and 23. Unity is a celebration of music (especially gospel) and art. This year's event features the Mississippi Mass Choir on Sunday May 23, 4 p.m. at the City Auditorium (221 E Kiowa). Saturday's schedule includes special guest Mason Weaver, author of *It's Okay to Leave the Plantation*, at the Hillside Community Center, 925 Institute. Call 1-888-718-2805 for information.

Colorado NOW conference May 15th

On May 15th, National Organization for Women will be hosting a Conference entitled "Women of Courage" with keynote speaker Mary Lou Makepeace, the first woman Mayor of Colorado Springs. The conference will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Hillside Community Center. Call 303-830-2795 for more information

Inside CP

Citizens Project Activist Network

Citizens Project members: would you like to be part of the Activist and/or Schools Network to help you make a difference? Network members are notified about important legislation, meetings, and events where their voices are needed. Call the Citizens Project office or e-mail us at citizensproject@cwix.com to sign up and get involved!

Citizens Project wish list

• Portable stereo (boom box) with tape deck • Camera (Polaroid would be great!) • Color computer monitor • Volunteers for our Adopt-a-median site

You can make a difference JOIN CITIZENS PROJECT

Your voice for tolerance in the Pikes Peak region.

Citizens Project ...

- Reports on news and views in *Freedom Watch*
- Organizes campaigns, workshops, and events
- Sponsors candidate surveys and forums
- Monitors and informs on legislative and other issues
- ... and more

☐ Yes, I'd like to join Citizens Project! Enclosed is my membership contribution of \$25 or more.

☐ I'm already a member, but I'm ready to do more! Enclosed is my contribution of:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$120 ☐ Other: \$_____

(All members receive a postage-paid subscription to *Freedom Watch*.)

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Our Mission: Citizens Project is a grassroots organization in the Pikes Peak region dedicated to upholding the traditional American values of pluralism, freedom of religion, and separation of church and state.



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